

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Gardiner Greene Hubbard, January 28, 1877, with transcript

Boston, Mass. Jan. 28th, 1877. Dear Mr. Hubbard,

Your various telegrams and letters received safely.

(Mr. Watson and I have been holding a council of war as to what is to be done now.

Telephony has approached a grand crisis — and a spurt now may end every doubt and difficulty. Mr. Watson will devote all his time to Telephony just now — whatever arrangement you care to make with him regarding payment — and I have decided to borrow money from my father to pay my foreign patents — so that I need not hesitate in handing over all my professional work to Mr. Butterfield (one of my Graduates) — with the exception of just enough to pay my running expenses. -

I should be decidedly unwilling to risk an experiment between here and Washington unless Mr. Watson were at one end of the line and I at the other. We feel that so many people are now probably at work upon our tracks that we are anxious to forestall interferences — if possible — by patenting at once all the different forms of apparatus we have used successfully.

I have been taking a lesson from Mr. Edison how to make a patent cover a large number of different forms of apparatus — and I have produced a Conglomerate of such varied texture and material — that I fear it will not hold together. I should like your opinion of it — and Mr. Pollok's — and if it is a feasible patent — I want it filed at once . I have no doubt it will forestall ever so many future interferences.)

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Mr. Ponton's letter seems to mean business. The "switching" process about which he is so doubtful — will give no trouble at all . My principal difficulty so far is in the matter of a call for the Magneto-Electric Telephone.

In haste Yours respectfully, A. Graham Bell.